

**The Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel
According to John**

Similarity and Distinction

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The Synoptic Gospels
(Matthew-Mark-Luke)
and
The Gospel According to John

*With an Appendix of Specific References
to the Kingly Rule of God
in Each Gospel*

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**“If ye continue in *My Word*,
then are ye My disciples indeed;
and ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall set you free.”**

(John 8:31-32)

Introduction

For many years attention has been called to the *similarity* of the first three gospels and their *distinction* from the fourth gospel. It is the purpose of this Reading Guide to avoid matters of interpretation and set forth the scripture, as it is written, in an outlined format so that both the *similarity* and *distinction* may be clearly seen.

The Synoptic Gospels are arranged in a 6-fold topic perspective:

- I PREPARATION FOR JESUS
- II PRESENTATION OF JESUS
- III PROFILES ON JESUS
- IV PRONOUNCEMENTS BY JESUS
- V PASSIONS OF JESUS
- VI POWER OF JESUS

The Gospel According to John is arranged in a 4-fold topic perspective:

- I PRESENTATION OF JESUS
- II PRONOUNCEMENTS BY JESUS
- III PASSIONS OF JESUS
- IV POWER OF JESUS

In the pages which follow, the reader should be careful to note the consistency of the subtopic arrangements under the synoptic gospel format, and to some extent, the consistency and parallels even with the fourth gospel. In other words, there are more ways by which all four gospel accounts harmonize or agree than disagree.

Matthew

I PREPARATION for Jesus (1:1-4:11)

- A. Genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17)
- B. Birth of Jesus (1:18-25)
- C. Wise Men and Jesus (2:1-12)
- D. Egypt and Jesus (2:13-23)
- E. Forerunner of Jesus (3:1-12)
- F. Baptism of Jesus (3:13-17)
- G. Temptations of Jesus (4:1-11)

II PRESENTATION of Jesus (4:12-14:36)

- A. Message of Jesus (4:12-17)
- B. Calling from Jesus (4:18-22)
- C. Credentials of Jesus (4:23-14:36)
 - 1. Tour of Galilee with Fisherman (4:23-25)
 - 2. Sermon on the Mount (5:1-8:1)
 - 3. Healing of Leper (8:2-4)
 - 4. Healing of Centurion's Servant at Capernaum (8:5-13)
 - 5. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law and Others (8:14-17)
 - 6. Discipleship (8:18-22)
 - 7. Calming the Sea (8:23-27)
 - 8. Healing of Demoniac (8:28-34)
 - 9. Healing of Paralytic (9:1-8)
 - 10. Levi's Honoring of Jesus (9:9-13)
 - 11. Defense of Disciples (9:14-17)
 - 12. Healing of Jairus' Daughter (9:18-26)
 - 13. Healing of Blind Man (9:27-34)
 - 14. Tour of Galilee (9:35-38)
 - 15. Sending Forth of the Twelve (10:1-33)
 - 16. Division (10:34-42)
 - 17. John the Baptist (11:1-19)
 - 18. Woes on Cities (11:20-30)
 - 19. Lord of Sabbath Regarding Grain (12:1-8)
 - 20. Lord of Sabbath Regarding Healing (12:9-14)
 - 21. Healing of Multitude and Prophetic Servant (12:15-21)
 - 22. Healing of Demon Possessed & Accusation of Blasphemy (12:22-37)
 - 23. Scribes and Pharisees Demand a Sign (12:38-45)
 - 24. Jesus' Mother and Brothers (12:46-50)
 - 25. Parables (13:1-53)
 - 26. Last Visit to Nazareth (13:54-58)
 - 27. Herod (14:1-12)
 - 28. Feeding of 5,000 (14:13-21)

29. Jesus' Refusal to be Political King (14:22-23)
30. Walking on Water (14:24-33)
31. Gennesaret (14:34-36)

III PROFILES on Jesus (15:1-23:39)

- A. Conflicts with Jesus (15:1-16:12)
 1. Pharisees' Reproachment of Jesus (15:1-20)
 2. Withdrawal to Tyre & Sidon and Healing (15:21-28)
 3. Withdrawal to Decapolis and Healing (15:29-31)
 4. Feeding of 4,000 (15:32-38)
 5. Magadan/Dalmanutha and Attack of Pharisees & Sadducees (15:39-16:4)
 6. Confrontation of Disciples (16:5-12)
- B. Instructions from Jesus (16:13-20:34)
 1. Confession of Christ (16:13-20)
 2. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (16:21-26)
 3. Coming of Son of Man (16:27-28)
 4. Transfiguration (17:1-8)
 5. Puzzlement Over Resurrection and Elijah/John the Baptist (17:9-13)
 6. Healing of Demoniac (17:14-21)
 7. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (17:22-23)
 8. Temple Tax (17:24-27)
 9. Childlikeness (18:1-6)
 10. Discipleship (18:7-14)
 11. Forgiveness (18:15-35)
 12. Divorce (19:1-12)
 13. Childlikeness (19:13-15)
 14. Rich Young Ruler (19:16-30)
 15. Parable of Workers in the Vineyard (20:1-16)
 16. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (20:17-19)
 17. A Ridiculed Request (20:20-28)
 18. Healing of Blind Men (20:29-34)
- C. Entry of Jesus (21:1-23:39)
 1. Cooperation with Jesus (21:1-11)
 2. Cleansing of Temple by Jesus (21:12-17)
 3. Cursing of Fig Tree by Jesus (21:18-22)
 4. Challenging of Jesus (21:23-27)
 5. Comparisons by Jesus (21:28-22:14)
 6. Caesar and Jesus (22:15-22)
 7. Confutation of Sadducees & Pharisees by Jesus (22:23-46)
 8. Condemnation of Scribes & Pharisees by Jesus (23:1-36)
 9. Compassion and Concern of Jesus (23:37-39)

IV PRONOUNCEMENTS by Jesus (24:1-25:46)

- A. Perilous Times Foretold by Jesus (24:1-31)
- B. Parable of Fig Tree by Jesus (24:32-35)
- C. Parousia of Jesus (24:36-51)
- D. Parables of Jesus (25:1-30)
- E. Partitioning (Separating) by Jesus (25:31-46)

V PASSIONS of Jesus (26:1-27:66)

- A. Plot to Kill Jesus (26:1-5)
- B. Precious Ointment for Jesus (26:6-13)
- C. Price Agreement Concerning Betrayal of Jesus (26:14-16)
- D. Passover & Lord's Supper with Jesus (26:17-35)
- E. Praying of Jesus (26:36-46)
- F. Partners Against Jesus (26:47-75)
- G. Pain of and Prophecy Concerning the Betrayer of Jesus (27:1-10)
- H. Pilate and Jesus (27:11-26)
- I. Praetorium and Mocking of Jesus (27:27-32)
- J. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (27:33-56)
- K. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (27:57-66)

VI POWER of Jesus (28:1-20)

- A. Resurrection of Jesus (28:1-15)
- B. Commission from Jesus (28:16-20)

Mark

I PREPARATION for Jesus (1:1-13)

- A. Forerunner of Jesus (1:1-8)
- B. Baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)
- C. Temptations of Jesus (1:12-13)

II PRESENTATION of Jesus (1:14-6:56)

- A. Message of Jesus (1:14-15)
- B. Calling from Jesus (1:16-20)
- C. Credentials of Jesus (1:21-6:56)
 - 1. Healing on Sabbath (1:21-28)
 - 2. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law and Others (1:29-34)
 - 3. Tour of Galilee with Fisherman (1:35-39)
 - 4. Healing of Leper (1:40-45)
 - 5. Healing of Paralytic (2:1-12)
 - 6. Levi's Honoring of Jesus (2:13-17)
 - 7. Defense of Disciples (2:18-22)
 - 8. Lord of Sabbath Regarding Grain (2:23-28)
 - 9. Lord of Sabbath Regarding Healing (3:1-6)
 - 10. Healing of Multitude and Prophetic Servant (3:7-12)
 - 11. Choosing of Twelve Apostles (3:13-19)
 - 12. Healing of Demon Possessed and Accusation of Blasphemy (3:20-30)
 - 13. Jesus' Mother and Brothers (3:31-35)
 - 14. Parables (4:1-34)
 - 15. Calming of Sea (4:35-41)
 - 16. Healing of Demoniac (5:1-20)
 - 17. Healing of Jairus' Daughter (5:21-43)
 - 18. Last Visit to Nazareth (6:1-6)
 - 19. Tour of Galilee and Sending Forth of the Twelve (6:6-13)
 - 20. Herod (6:14-29)
 - 21. Feeding of 5,000 (6:30-44)
 - 22. Jesus' Refusal to be Political King (6:45-46)
 - 23. Walking on Water (6:47-52)
 - 24. Gennesaret (6:53-56)

III PROFILES on Jesus (7:1-12:44)

- A. Conflicts with Jesus (7:1-8:26)
 - 1. Pharisees' Reproachment of Jesus (7:1-23)
 - 2. Withdrawal to Tyre & Sidon and Healing (7:24-30)
 - 3. Withdrawal to Decapolis and Healing (7:31-37)
 - 4. Feeding of 4,000 (8:1-9)

5. Magadan/Dalmanutha and Attack of Pharisees (8:10-12)
6. Confrontation of Disciples & Healing of Blind Man (8:13-26)

B. Instructions from Jesus (8:27-10:52)

1. Confession of Christ (8:27-30)
2. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (8:31-37)
3. Coming of Son of Man (8:38-9:1)
4. Transfiguration (9:2-8)
5. Puzzlement Over Resurrection and Elijah/John the Baptist (9:9-13)
6. Healing of Demoniac (9:14-29)
7. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (9:30-32)
8. Childlikeness (9:33-37)
9. Discipleship (9:38-50)
10. Divorce (10:1-12)
11. Childlikeness (10:13-16)
12. Rich Young Ruler (10:17-31)
13. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (10:32-34)
14. A Ridiculed Request (10:35-45)
15. Healing of Blind Man (10:46-52)

C. Entry of Jesus (11:1-12:44)

1. Cooperation with Jesus (11:1-10)
2. Cleansing of Temple by Jesus (11:11-18)
3. Cursing of Fig Tree by Jesus (11:19-26)
4. Challenging of Jesus (11:27-33)
5. Comparisons by Jesus (12:1-12)
6. Caesar and Jesus (12:13-17)
7. Confutation of Sadducees and Pharisees/Scribes by Jesus (12:18-37)
8. Condemnation of Scribes and Pharisees by Jesus (12:38-40)
9. Compassion and Comments of Jesus (12:41-44)

IV PRONOUNCEMENTS by Jesus (13:1-37)

- A. Perilous Times Foretold by Jesus (13:1-27)
- B. Parable of Fig Tree by Jesus (13:28-31)
- C. Parousia of Jesus (13:32-37)

V PASSIONS of Jesus (14:1-15:47)

- A. Plot to Kill Jesus (14:1-2)
- B. Precious Ointment for Jesus (14:3-9)
- C. Price Agreement Concerning Betrayal of Jesus (14:10-11)
- D. Passover and Lord's Supper with Jesus (14:12-26)
- E. Praying of Jesus (14:32-42)
- F. Partners against Jesus (14:27-31, 43-72)

- G. Pilate and Jesus (15:1-15)
- H. Praetorium and Mocking of Jesus (15:16-21)
- I. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (15:22-41)
- J. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (15:42-47)

VI POWER of Jesus (16:1-20)

- A. Resurrection of Jesus (16:1-13)
- B. Commission from Jesus (16:14-18)
- C. Ascension of Jesus (16:19)
- D. Obedience to Jesus (16:20)

Luke

Preface (1:1-4)

I PREPARATION for Jesus (1:5-4:13)

- A. Annunciations/Announcements Concerning Jesus (1:5-38)
- B. Consultations about Jesus (1:39-80)
- C. Childhood of Jesus (2:1-52)
- D. Forerunner of Jesus (3:1-20)
- E. Baptism of Jesus (3:21-22)
- F. Genealogy of Jesus (3:23-38)
- G. Temptations of Jesus (4:1-13)

II PRESENTATION of Jesus (4:14-9:17)

- A. Message of Jesus (4:14-15)
- B. Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth (4:16-30)
- C. Calling from Jesus (5:1-11)
- D. Credentials of Jesus (4:31-9:17)
 - 1. Healing on Sabbath (4:31-37)
 - 2. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law and Others (4:38-41)
 - 3. Tour of Galilee with Fisherman (4:42-44)
 - 4. Healing of Leper (5:12-16)
 - 5. Healing of Paralytic (5:17-26)
 - 6. Levi's Honoring of Jesus (5:27-32)
 - 7. Defense of Disciples (5:33-39)
 - 8. Lord of Sabbath Regarding Grain (6:1-5)
 - 9. Lord of Sabbath Regarding Healing (6:6-11)
 - 10. Choosing of Twelve Apostles (6:12-16)
 - 11. Sermon on the Mount (6:17-49)
 - 12. Healing of Centurion's Servant at Capernaum (7:1-10)
 - 13. Raising of Widow's Son at Nain (7:11-17)
 - 14. John the Baptist (7:18-35)
 - 15. Anointing of Jesus' Feet by Sinful Woman (7:36-50)
 - 16. Tour of Galilee (8:1-3)
 - 17. Parables (8:4-18)
 - 18. Jesus' Mother and Brothers (8:19-21)
 - 19. Calming of Sea (8:22-25)
 - 20. Healing of Demoniac (8:26-39)
 - 21. Healing of Jairus' Daughter (8:40-56)
 - 22. Tour of Galilee and Sending Forth of the Twelve (9:1-6)
 - 23. Herod (9:7-9)
 - 24. Feeding of 5,000 (9:10-17)

III PROFILES on Jesus (9:18-21:4)

- A. Instructions from Jesus (9:18-19:27)
 - 1. Confession of Christ (9:18-21)
 - 2. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (9:22-25)
 - 3. Coming of Son of Man (9:26-27)
 - 4. Transfiguration (9:28-36)
 - 5. Healing of Demoniac (9:37-43)
 - 6. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (9:43-45)
 - 7. Childlikeness (9:46-48)
 - 8. Discipleship (9:49-50)
 - 9. Through Samaria to Jerusalem (9:51-56)
 - 10. Discipleship (9:57-62)
 - 11. Appointment of Labourers (10:1-24)
 - 12. Parable of Good Samaritan (10:25-37)
 - 13. Jesus' Visit with Martha and Mary (10:38-42)
 - 14. Prayer (11:1-13)
 - 15. Beelzebub Accusation (11:14-28)
 - 16. Sign of Jonah (11:29-32)
 - 17. Light (11:33-36)
 - 18. Woes on Pharisees (11:37-54)
 - 19. Fear God (12:1-7)
 - 20. Confession of Christ (12:8-12)
 - 21. Parable of Rich Fool (12:13-21)
 - 22. Worry (12:22-34)
 - 23. Watchfulness (12:35-48)
 - 24. Division (12:49-53)
 - 25. Seriousness of the Times (12:54-59)
 - 26. Urgency of Fruitful Repentance (13:1-9)
 - 27. Healing of Crippled Woman on a Sabbath (13:10-21)
 - 28. Seriousness of Discipleship/Sorrow for Jerusalem (13:22-35)
 - 29. Healing on the Sabbath (14:1-6)
 - 30. Parable of Humility (14:7-14)
 - 31. Parable of Great Banquet (14:15-24)
 - 32. Costliness of Discipleship (14:25-34)
 - 33. Parable of Lost Sheep (15:1-7)
 - 34. Parable of Lost Coin (15:8-10)
 - 35. Parable of Lost Son/Loving Father (15:11-32)
 - 36. Parable of Shrewd Manager (16:1-15)
 - 37. Authority of the Law (16:16-18)
 - 38. Parable of Rich Man and Lazarus (16:19-31)
 - 39. Forgiveness and Faith (17:1-10)
 - 40. Gratitude (17:11-19)
 - 41. Coming of the Kingdom of God (17:20-37)
 - 42. Parable of Persistency (18:1-8)

43. Parable of Humility (18:9-14)
44. Childlikeness (18:15-17)
45. Rich Young Ruler (18:18-30)
46. Prediction of Death & Resurrection (18:31-34)
47. Healing of Blind Man (18:35-43)
48. Jesus and Zacchaeus (19:1-10)
49. Parable of Stewardship (19:11-27)

- B. Entry of Jesus (19:28-21:4)
 1. Cooperation with Jesus (19:28-44)
 2. Cleansing of Temple by Jesus (19:45-48)
 3. Challenging of Jesus (20:1-8)
 4. Comparisons by Jesus (20:9-19)
 5. Caesar and Jesus (20:20-26)
 6. Confutation of Sadducees and Pharisees/Scribes by Jesus (20:27-44)
 7. Condemnation of Scribes and Pharisees by Jesus (20:45-47)
 8. Compassion and Comments of Jesus (21:1-4)

IV PRONOUNCEMENTS by Jesus (21:5-38)

- A. Perilous Times Foretold by Jesus (21:5-28)
- B. Parable of Fig Tree by Jesus (21:29-33)
- C. Parousia of Jesus (21:34-36)
- D. Parenthesis about Jesus (21:37-38)

V PASSIONS of Jesus (22:1-23:56)

- A. Plot to Kill Jesus (22:1-3)
- B. Price Agreement Concerning Betrayal of Jesus (22:4-6)
- C. Passover and Lord's Supper with Jesus (22:7-38)
- D. Praying of Jesus (22:39-46)
- E. Partners against Jesus (22:47-71)
- F. Pilate and Herod and Jesus (23:1-25)
- G. Provision for and Proclamation by Jesus (23:26-32)
- H. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (23:33-49)
- I. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (23:50-56)

VI POWER of Jesus (24:1-52)

- A. Resurrection of Jesus (24:1-12)
- B. Appearances of Jesus (24:13-49)
- C. Ascension of Jesus (24:50-51)
- D. Obedience to Jesus (24:53)

John

I PRESENTATION of Jesus (1:1-51)

- A. Sovereignty of Jesus (1:1-2)
- B. Significance of Jesus (1:3-5)
 - 1. Concerning Creation (1:3)
 - 2. Concerning Life (1:4-5)
- C. Superiority of Jesus (1:6-34)
 - 1. To John the Baptist (1:6-16, 19-34)
 - 2. To Moses (1:17-18)
- D. Summons/Invitation from Jesus (1:35-51)

II PRONOUNCEMENTS by Jesus (2:1-17:26)

- A. Stated Publicly (2:1-12:50)
 - 1. Sign #1 [*Water into Wine*] (2:1-11)
{Interlude (2:12)}
 - 2. Significance of Temples (2:13-22)
{Interlude (2:23-25)}
 - 3. Subject: New Birth (3:1-36)
 - 4. Subject: Worship (4:1-42)
{Interlude (4:43-45)}
 - 5. Sign #2 [*Healing of Nobleman's Son*] (4:46-54)
 - 6. Sign #3 [*Healing of Lame Man*] (5:1-18)
 - 7. Subject: Divinity of Jesus (5:19-47)
 - 8. Sign #4 [*Feeding of 5,000*] (6:1-15)
 - 9. Sign #5 [*Walking on Water*] (6:16-21)
 - 10. Subject: Spiritual Feeding (6:22-71)
Sayings (#1): "I am the Bread of Life" (6:35,41,48)
 - 11. Subject: Spiritual Thirst (7:1-52)
{Interlude (7:53-8:11)}
 - 12. Subject: Spiritual Light (8:12-59)
Sayings (#2): "I am the Light of the World" (8:12)
 - 13. Sign #6 [*Opening Blind Eyes*] (9:1-42)
 - 14. Subject: Spiritual Care and Guidance (10:1-42)
Sayings (#3): "I am the Door" (10:7-9)
Sayings (#4): "I am the Good Shepherd" (10:11,14)
 - 15. Sign #7 [*Raising the Dead*] (11:1-57)
Sayings (#5): "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (11:25)
 - 16. Support and Sorrow (12:1-50)
 - a. Perfume and Protest (12:1-8)
 - b. Plot Against Lazarus (12:9-11)
 - c. Popularity of Jesus (12:12-26)
 - d. Passion of Jesus Foretold (12:27-36a)

{Interlude (12:36b-43)}

e. Passionate Outcry (12:44-50)

- B. Stated Privately (13:1-17:26)
 - 1. Supper (13:1-4)
 - 2. Service/Servitude (13:5-20)
 - 3. Signification/Prediction of Betrayal (13:21-30)
 - 4. Summons/Command to Love (13:31-35)
 - 5. Signification/Prediction of Denials (13:36-38)
 - 6. Solace/Comfort for Disciples (14:1-31)
 Sayings (#6): "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life" (14:6)
 - 7. Solemn Declarations (15:1-16:33)
 Sayings (#7): "I am the True Vine" (15:1)
 - 8. Supplication/Prayer (17:1-26)

III PASSIONS of Jesus (18:1-19:42)

- A. Plot to Kill Jesus (18:1-11)
- B. Priests' Questioning of Jesus (18:12-24)
- C. Peter's Denials of Jesus (18:25-27)
- D. Pilate's Deliberations about Jesus (18:28-19:15)
- E. Place of a Skull and Crucifixion of Jesus (19:16-37)
- F. Pallbearer and Burial of Jesus (19:38-42)

IV POWER of Jesus (20:1-29; 21:1-23)

- A. Resurrection of Jesus (20:1-10)
- B. Appearances of Jesus (20:11-29; 21:1-23)
 - 1. To Mary (20:11-18)
 - 2. To Disciples without Thomas (20:19-25)
 - 3. To Disciples with Thomas (20:26-29)
 - 4. To Disciples at Sea of Tiberias/Galilee (21:1-23)

PURPOSE (20:30-31)

POSTSCRIPT (21:24-25)

APPENDIX

References to the Kingdom in the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel According to John

MATTHEW: 53 references

“the kingdom” - 4:23; 6:10, 13; 8:12; 9:35; 13:19, 38; 24:14; 25:34
“the kingdom of heaven” - 3:2; 4:17; 5:3, 10, 19[twice], 20; 7:21; 8:11; 10:7; 11:11, 12;
13:11, 19, 24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52; 16:19; 18:1, 3, 4, 23;
19:12, 14, 23; 20:1; 22:2; 23:13; 25:1
“the kingdom of God” - 6:33; 12:28; 19:24; 21:31, 43
“Thy kingdom” - 6:10; 20:21
“His kingdom” - 13:41; 16:28
“the kingdom of their Father” - 13:43
“My Father’s kingdom” - 26:29

MARK: 16 references

“the kingdom of God” - 1:14, 15; 4:11, 26, 30; 9:1, 47; 10:14, 15, 23, 24, 25; 12:34;
14:25; 15:43
“the kingdom of our father David” - 11:10

LUKE: 40 references

“the kingdom” - 12:32; 19:15
“a kingdom” - 22:29
“the kingdom of God” - 4:43; 6:20; 7:28; 8:1, 10; 9:2, 11, 27, 60, 62; 10:9, 11; 11:20;
12:31; 13:18, 20, 28, 29; 14:15; 16:16; 17:20 [twice], 21;
18:16, 17, 24, 25, 29; 19:11; 21:31; 22:16, 18; 23:51
“Thy kingdom” - 11:2; 23:42
“His kingdom” - 1:33
“My kingdom” - 22:30

JOHN: 5 references

“the kingdom of God” - 3:3, 5
“My kingdom” - 18:36 [three]